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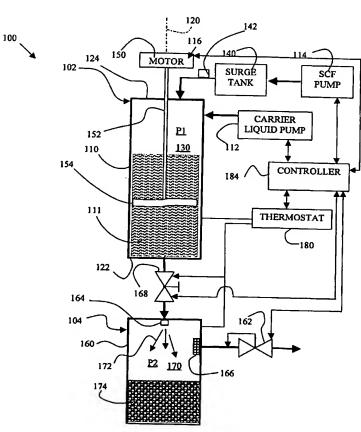
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(54) Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR SUPERCRITICAL FLUID ASSISTED PARTICLE PRODUCTION



(57) Abstract: The present invention provides an apparatus and methods of producing particles that include a polymer, a wax and/or lipid and, optionally, a biologically active substance. A load stock including a polymer, a wax, and/or a lipid that is a solid at standard temperature and pressure and, optionally, a biologically active substance The load stock is contacted with is provided. a supercritical fluid to form a melt. The melt is contacted with a polar solvent under suitable conditions to form an emulsion. The emulsion is expanded across a pressure drop to form solid particles that include the load stock. The methods and apparatus facilitate the production of very small particles that have a narrow particle size distribution. An apparatus is shown in Figure 1. The apparatus (100) includes an emulsion and mixing apparatus (102) and an expansion apparatus (104). emulsification apparatus includes an emulsification vessel (110) and an emulsion assembly (116).

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EAST search, search terms: polymer, wax, lipid, supercritical fluid, solid, powder, particulate, particle, emulsion, melt				
C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT				
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A	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages US 5,639,441 A (SIEVERS et al) 17 June 1997 (17.06.1997).			Relevant to claim No.
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Further	documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.	See patent fa	amily annex.	
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